

<http://www.christianpost.com/article/20090416/u-s-religious-freedom-body-denied-entry-into-cuba/index.html>

A U.S. religious freedom body was denied visas to enter Cuba for a fact-finding mission that included meetings with the island's religious communities and government officials, the group said on Monday.

The **U.S. Commission on International Freedom (USCIRF)**, a bipartisan group created to monitor religious freedom in the world, was forced to cancel a planned trip to Cuba when visas were withheld for members of the delegation. The Cuban government did not give any explanation for withholding the visas, **the Commission said.**

"We are very disappointed by the Cuban government's refusal to allow an official U.S. delegation to investigate first-hand Cuban citizens' freedom to believe and practice their faith on the island," said **Felice D. Gaer, chair of USCIRF.** "Our Commission has visited China, Vietnam, Laos, Saudi Arabia and other countries. Does the Cuban government have something to hide?"